

Message Text

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60

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

DRC-01 /088 W

----- 081808

R 091551Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3639

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 1252

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ELAB LT SF

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICAN POLICY TOWARDS LESOTHO

REF : USUN 4531

1. GENERAL ATTITUDE AND APPROACH APPARENTLY DISPLAYED BY PERMREP MOLAPO IN CONVERSATION REPORTED REFTEL AT CONSIDERABLE VARIANCE WITH THAT EXHIBITED BY LOCAL OFFICIALDOM.

2. BASOTHO/XHOSA INCIDENTS AT DURNACOL COLLIERY IN NATAL PRODUCED ALMOST NO REACTION HERE, OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL. AFTER INITIAL INCIDENT IN WHICH ONE MOSOTHO AND ONE XHOSA KILLED, GOL -- AT INVITATION MINE AUTHORITIES -- SENT THREE-MAN DELEGATION TO TALK TO BASOTHO. NEVERTHELESS, NEW HOSTILITIES RESULTED IN DEATHS SEVEN BASOTHO AND ONE XHOSA. ACCORDING STATEMENT IN INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BY ACTING MINFIN C.D. MOLAPO, 450 BASOTHO MINERS THEN REQUESTED MINE MANAGEMENT "TO ALLOW THEM TO RETURN HOME FOR THE TIME BEING." MINISTER'S EXPLANATION OF INCIDENT EVOKED NO DISCUSSION IN ASSEMBLY. GOL APPARENTLY VIEWS AFFAIR AS UNFORTUNATE TRIBAL CLASH, BUT WITH NO PARTICULAR IMPLICATIONS FOR GOL/SAG
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RELATIONS.

3. AS FOR FEAR OF "MARCH ON MASERU," WE HAVE NOTICED NO NERVOUSNESS ON PART OF GOVERNMENT. GOL ATTITUDE TOWARD RECENT BCP MEETING (MASERU 1164), WHICH ADMITTEDLY TOOK PLACE PRIOR TO DURNACOL INCIDENTS, WAS ONE OF WATCHFUL EQUANIMITY. IN TOUR D'HORIZON WITH CHARGE NOV 7, FONMIN PEETE NOTED THAT WHILE MANY RANK-AND-FILE BNP MEMBERS RESENTED LIFTING OF STATE OF EMERGENCY, GOL HAD NO INTENTION REIMPOSING IT.

4. PERMREP MOLAPO'S ALLEGATIONS PARA 3 REFTTEL RE SAG'S INTER-FERENCE/INFLUENCE ACCURATE, THOUGH NOT NEW. (MASERU A-55 MOST RECENTLY REPORTED PEETE'S DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT WITH AMBASSADOR.) COMMENTS ON SPECIFICS CONTAINED USUN 4532 FOLLOW SEPTTEL.
FRISBIE

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Message Attributes

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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